safe and sound through this weekend.

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## REGRETTABLE BOOK BATTLE

Mrs. John F. (Jacqueline or Jackie) Kennedy has won her and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's fight to get various passages taken out of legitimate versions—probably both book and magazine—of William Manchester's forthcoming "The Death of a President."

William Manchester

Mrs. Kennedy

Bootleg editions from book-pirating firms are another matter, and apparently nothing can block them all.

We wish this fight never had taken place.

Manchester is a reputable author. The Kennedy family chose him to write the story of President John F. Kennedy's murder by Red rat Lee H. Oswald. Mrs. Kennedy, rather soon after the Nov. 22, 1963, murder in Dallas, talked at length to Manchester, who tape-recorded what she said.

The author used much of this material in his book. Mrs. Kennedy then claimed—and we think justifiably, under the circumstances—that use of some of it was unauthorized. Hence the battle royal, involving the President's widow, Sen. Kennedy, Manchester, Harper and Row, and Look magazine.

We fear the general public will get the impression from all this that it is dangerous to give background data to writers of any kind, because they are more than likely to cross you up and publicize the material against your wishes.

They aren't. The great majority of writers in all fields are professionally ethical, honest, and scrupulous about protecting confidences. We only hope that fact will not be fogged over or blacked out in the public mind by the battle of the Presidential murder story.